

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ALLEYS



Get rid of alleys and create:

More play area

More yard and garden

A clean block

A stable neighborhood

If You Get Rid of Your Alley You Have



More play area



More yard and garden



A clean block with regular
rubbish and garbage pick-up

The extra land now used for an alley may be joined onto your lot to make a larger yard.

In this extra space you may extend your lawn, enlarge your garden, or have extra play space for your children.

You may move your fence to the new property line, or you may leave the space unfenced. Some neighbors have joined this extra yard space together to form a safe playground in the center of the block for small children.

When an alley is closed, the Department of Public Works maintains regular pick-up of rubbish and garbage from the street. In order to have an efficient system over a whole neighborhood, the Department may establish a front pick-up system even though some alleys in the neighborhood have not been closed.

With front pick-up service, rubbish is picked up alternate weeks on a specified day from the curb in front of the house. Garbage is picked up weekly from covered portable containers. Detroit families who now have front pick-up like it better than the old system. It encourages neatness.

How to Do It . . . Step By Step



All the property owners must sign

1

First, write or call for a petition. Petition forms are available from the City Plan Commission Office, 8th Floor City-County Building, WO 5-4200, extension 209.

2

Have all the property owners sign the petition. Property owners are those who hold the deed to the land and have their names recorded as owners in the Tract Index Department in the City-County Building.

3

File the petition with the City Clerk, City-County Building, Detroit 26, Michigan, when all the property owners have signed.

If your neighbors don't agree

It will take longer, but may still be possible to close your alley if only two-thirds of the owners will sign.



File the petition with the City Clerk

When any signatures are lacking, the city may close your alley only by petitioning the Circuit Court and securing a court order. When you have secured two-thirds of the signatures for your block, call WO 5-4200, extension 209, to talk with the City Plan Commission about procedure.

Warning

The legal term for eliminating an alley is "converting to an easement." It means convert the city's public alley into private yard — on the condition that you agree to ease up on some property rights to the land.

You must agree — (1) not to build any permanent structure such as a garage or masonry wall on the easement; (2) to let the utilities service their poles and lines. Agree to do this and you may use the land as part of your yard. Normally the alley will be divided equally between adjoining owners. If the alley is on a subdivision boundary, the land may be divided differently.

Your neighborhood conservation program

--is a practical program to maintain good living conditions in Detroit. The Detroit Committee on Neighborhood Conservation needs your help to create the most pleasant living conditions for you and your family. Alley conversion as outlined in this bulletin is one program to improve your block and your neighborhood. Many property owners in Detroit have already closed their alleys. Look into the possibilities and let your neighbors know what can be done. *

Prepared by

THE DETROIT CITY PLAN COMMISSION

for

THE DETROIT COMMITTEE
ON NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION